



Northern Idaho

September 2020

IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

Workforce Trends

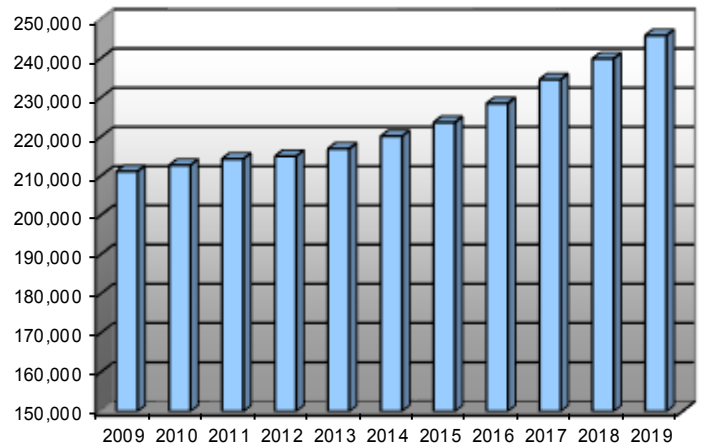
Population

With its stunning scenery, great fishing and hunting opportunities and pleasant lifestyle, the Panhandle has attracted thousands of new residents since the early 1970s. Over the last few decades, many retirees have chosen to move to the region, joined by many workers during periods of job growth.

While the U.S. population grew 7 percent between 2009 and 2019, Idaho's population grew faster at 15 percent and the Panhandle's at 16.4 percent to 245,861. Kootenai County's population grew 20.6 percent to 165,697; Boundary County 13.2 percent to 12,245 and Bonner County 12.1 percent to 45,739. Benewah County grew 0.1 percent to 9,298 and Shoshone County's population grew 0.2 percent to 12,882.

The largest cities are Coeur d'Alene at 52,414 2019, Post Falls at 36,250, Hayden at 15,434, Sandpoint at 8,931, Rathdrum at 9,150, Bonners Ferry at 2,637, St. Maries at 2,448 Dalton Gardens at 2,410, Kellogg at 2,136 and Priest River at 1,893.

Population

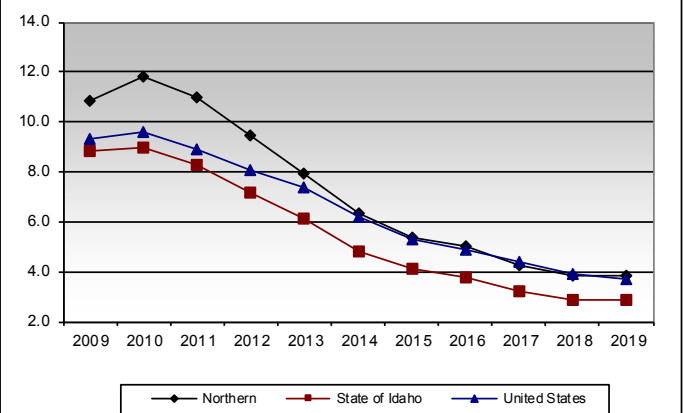


Labor Force & Employment

The Panhandle economy has traditionally relied on natural resources — forest products, mining and agriculture. Over the last 25 years, it has successfully diversified and grown. Today, a variety of manufacturing, health care and tourism are major drivers of the region's economy. In addition, five large call centers and several corporate headquarters provide hundreds of jobs. Rapid population growth also bolstered construction, retail, services and health care over the last 10 years.

After four years of remarkable job growth, the Panhandle's unemployment rate fell to a record low 2.7 percent in May 2007. Since then, U.S. housing starts have fallen to a 25-year low, resulting in the loss of nearly 1,400 logging and mill jobs. Many other sectors also experienced job losses in the recession. Unemployment peaked in the Panhandle at 17 percent in late 2009 and again in August 2010. The last time it

Unemployment Rates



Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	115,302	114,457
Total Employment	110,796	107,928
Unemployed	4,506	6,529
Panhandle Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	5.7
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

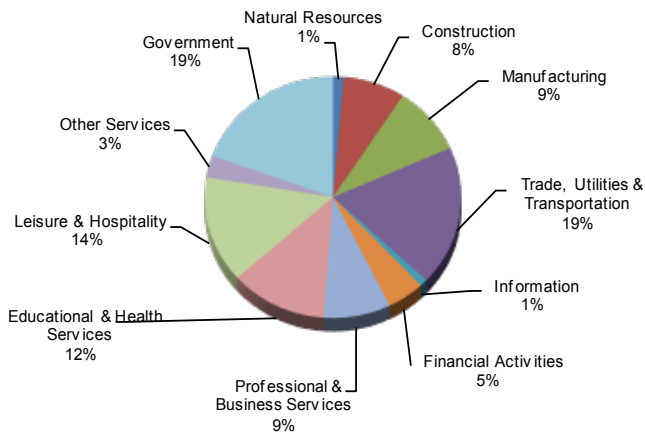
Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	106,817	103,421	103,434	102,253	101,925	102,773	104,388	107,145	109,155	111,794	114,788
Unemployment	11,607	12,196	11,359	9,700	8,115	6,506	5,575	5,349	4,621	4,311	4,438
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.9	11.8	11.0	9.5	8.0	6.3	5.3	5.0	4.2	3.9	3.9
Employment	95,210	91,225	92,075	92,553	93,810	96,267	98,813	101,796	104,534	107,483	110,350

was that high was March 1987.

Despite the slowdown, most manufacturers have held their own. In the last 20 years, dozens of manufacturers have moved from California to the Panhandle for its low business costs and excellent business climate.

Tourism plays a major role in the Panhandle. Its largest employers are the Coeur d'Alene Resort, the casino hotels of the Kootenai and Coeur d'Alene tribes, Schweitzer and Silver Mountain ski resorts and Silverwood Theme Park.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Covered Employment & Wages

A favorable business climate and growing customer base help Panhandle businesses prosper. The number of private-sector employers grew 30 percent from 6,151 in 2000 to 7,976 in 2008. Growth statewide was 27 percent. The Panhandle has lost 951 private employers between 2008 and 2013 for a 12 percent decrease. The number has been steadily increasing since 2013 to 7,872 in 2017.

Overall, northern Idaho's economy has greatly diversified over the past decade. A service-based economy is focusing more on health care, retail, manufacturing, and business support services. The shift in nature of the firms in northern Idaho has created a more stable employment and economic base.

In addition to private-sector employers, the region has 81 federal, 68 state and 252 local government agencies including five community hospitals. There are 12 employers through the Kootenai and Coeur d'Alene Indian tribes.

Major Employers

Bonner General Hospital	Kimball Office
Center Partners	US Silver
Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Kootenai Health
Coldwater Creek	Litehouse
Dave Smith Motors	North Idaho College
Esterline Advanced Input Systems	Wal-Mart
Hagadone Corporation	Silverwood Theme Park
Hecla Mining	U.S. Bank

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$11.92	\$18.00
Cashier	\$9.11	\$11.41
Childcare Worker	\$8.43	\$11.45
Computer User Support Specialists	\$15.59	\$21.87
Construction Laborer	\$12.49	\$18.39
Customer Service Representatives	\$10.53	\$14.73
Dental Assistants	\$13.87	\$17.13
Janitor & Cleaner	\$9.65	\$12.71
Laborer & Material Handler	\$11.71	\$15.14
Office Clerks, General	\$10.70	\$16.26
Registered Nurse	\$25.94	\$35.10
Retail Salespersons	\$10.02	\$14.58
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$12.08	\$16.82
Teacher, Elementary	\$31,670	\$49,019
Teacher, Secondary	\$43,420	\$58,006
Truck Driver, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$15.05	\$23.45

• Additional occupational wage data can be found on

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	76,933	\$31,287	88,011	\$38,865	90,315	\$40,069
Agriculture	1,044	\$32,646	1,115	\$40,778	1,106	\$42,606
Mining	792	\$64,563	697	\$89,943	729	\$84,731
Construction	5,582	\$34,527	6,389	\$42,728	7,030	\$44,584
Manufacturing	7,141	\$36,152	8,072	\$47,648	8,312	\$47,631
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	15,330	\$29,964	16,634	\$36,674	16,940	\$38,143
Information	1,059	\$41,317	928	\$58,391	868	\$64,337
Financial Activities	3,802	\$38,334	4,226	\$51,512	4,203	\$52,689
Professional and Business Services	7,107	\$33,468	7,769	\$42,429	7,649	\$44,054
Educational and Health Services	8,244	\$30,919	10,671	\$37,876	11,029	\$39,709
Leisure and Hospitality	9,625	\$14,105	12,277	\$17,950	12,921	\$18,565
Other Services	1,823	\$22,524	2,258	\$31,138	2,210	\$30,582
Government	15,384	\$35,910	16,976	\$44,087	17,320	\$45,894

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Panhandle Idaho	\$30,388	\$31,081	\$32,765	\$34,490	\$35,304	\$37,000	\$39,028	\$39,926	\$41,278	\$43,087
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis